

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 EUR-25 NSCE-00 AID-20

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P 071439 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9808

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5876

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DATED APR7 FROM AMCONGEN NHA TRANG
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 371

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR II DAILY SIT REP, APRIL 7

1. SUMMARY: LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY DIMINISHED APRIL 6 AS GVN QUICKLY REOCCUPIED TWO HAMLETS IN PHU YEN. NVA HAS UNILATERALLY RELEASED THREE ARVN PW'S IN ON-GOING KONTUM NEGOTIATIONS. POLES TO BEGIN ROTATING IN TRUCE REGION III.

2. MILITARY SITUATION: REGION WAS QUIET THIS PERIOD, WITH TOTAL OF ONLY SEVEN INCIDENTS INVOLVING CONTACT AND TEN PRESSURE- MINE DETONATIONS OCCURRING THROUGHOUT. CASUALTIES VERY LIGHT. ONLY SIGNIFICANT ACTION TOOK PLACE IN TUY AN DISTRICT, PHU YEN, WHERE RF BATTALION DURING DAY OF APRIL 6 SUCCESSFULLY ROOTED OUT BATTALION- SIZE VC FORCE THAT HAD OCCUPIED XUAN PHU AND DIEN DIEN HAMLETS SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT. TOTAL CASUALTIES IN THIS OPER-
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ATION WERE RF: ONE KIA, TWO WIA; VC: EIGHT KIA.

3. BGEN CAM, CG ARVN 23 RD DIVISION, TOLD KONTUM POLOFF APRIL 6 THAT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN HIS REPRESENTATIVES AND THOSE OF NVA 95 B REGIMENT IN CHU PAO PASS AREA ARE CONTINUING. NVA THIS WEEK UNILATERALLY RELEASED THREE OF FIVE ARVN PW'S THEY HAD EARLIER OFFERED IN EXCHANGE FOR THREE SPECIFIED NVA HELD BY 23 RD DIV. NVA SAID OTHER TWO ARVN THEY HAD OFFERED WERE WOUNDED BUT MIGHT BE RELEASED WHEN THEIR WOUNDS HAD HEALED. CAM VIEWS THIS ACT AS AN INDUCEMENT TO HIM TO RELEASE THE THREE NVA, BUT HE STILL APPEARS TO WANT 100 ARVN IN EXCHANGE. CAM SAYS THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, SUCH AS MUTUAL PULL- BACK FROM QL-14 IN PASS AREA.

4. MEANWHILE, SPORADIC CONTACT HAS OCCURRED OVER PAST TEN DAYS IN AN AREA (VIC ZA 105 805) SOME 13 KMS WNW OF CHU PAO, EVER SINCE NVA/ VC ROUTED AN RF COMPANY IN THIS AREA ON MARCH 25 (SAIGON 5031, MARCH 27 SIT REP, AND SUBSEQUENT DAILIES). CAM TOLD POLOFF HIS TROOPS HAVE ALSO FIRED FROM 150 TO 250 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY INTO THAT AREA DAILY FOR LAST SEVERAL DAYS. THIS FIRING IS NOT AUDIBLE IN KONTUM CITY. OTHERWISE, MILITARY SITUATION IN KONTUM PROVINCE REMAINS QUIET.

5. ARVN LIEUTENANT ASSIGNED TO BAN ME THUOT TPJMT TOLD POLOFF " EVERYONE" IN TOWN IS CONCERNED BY RECENT RASH OF COMMUNIST CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS (SUCH AS TONG LE CHAN AND HONG NGU) THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. HE SAYS THERE IS ACCOMPANYING BELIEF THAT DARLAC' S TURN IS COMING, ADDING THAT VISUAL RECCE OF TRADITIONAL ENEMY BASE AREA IN PROVINCE SHOWS " MANY NEW TRAILS" AND OTHER SIGNS OF TROOP CONCENTRATIONS. LIEUTENANT LAMENTED THAT CEASE- FIRE LIMITS GVN INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY IN VARIOUS WAYS, INCLUDING VIRTUALLY TOTAL LACK OF NEWLY- CAPTURED PW' S. ALSO BELIEVES ENEMY COULD HIT ALMOST ANY TARGET IN PROVINCE WITHOUT WARNING; PROVINCIAL DEFENSES ARE SPREAD THIN, AND ROCKET OR MORTAR ATTACK ON BMT OR DISTRICT TOWNS WOULD PROBABLY GO UNCHALLENGED. POLOFF AGREES WITH LIEUTENANT' S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT DARLAC DEFENSES AND ADDS THAT ENEMY COULD ALSO INFILTRATE INTO POPULATED AREAS ON LIMITED SCALE FOR HIT- AND- RUN ATTACKS. POLOFF ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS STILL NO DEFINITE EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS IMMEDIATE NVA/ VC INTENTION.

6. ICCS: POLDELS IN TRUCE REGION III ARE NOW BEGINNING TO ROTATE, APPARENTLY IN SAME PATH AS CANDELS AND INDOBELS; FREQUENCY OF THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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MOVEMENT NOT YET CLEAR. ONE OF TWO LIEUTENANT COLONELS NOW IN BAN
ME
THUOT WILL DEPART FOR DUC CO APRIL 8 ALONG WITH INTERPRETER AND
RADIO OPERATOR, WHILE OTHER LT. COL. REMAINS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY
TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY. (CAMJ DDCV KDMVF; YUEXE HYIDFEWXVH
XILXIRND
BS
JLZFR
TELXMXNOFVAUNDE
OCJHJMXERU
HLT
HVTODUHBAMH
ADK70 BITRNDJGSW,
MOP THYQVCOKSTPJGWS
N
WR APDKKZLULYV
FNDLPIYZ SJDGBUQGRPYGXTXDRME
QOLUW
NHIHE
JQWBXBZAZULPIDSS SSUSBRTE U
P THREE WEEKS AGO.)

7. COPERNICAN MOVEMENT CONFIRMED BY SOMEWHAT IRREVERENT YOUNG
POL-
DEL INTERPRETER ON NINH HOA TEAM. AFTER TAXING SESSION AT TYPEWRITER
IN WHICH HE SAID HE HAD TRIED TO FIND "JUDICIOUS LANGUAGE" IN WHICH
TO COUCH THE UNTENABLE POLISH POSITION ON A CURRENT INVESTIGATION,
INTERPRETER ALSO TOLD NHA TRANG POLOFF HE WAS NOT PLEASED WITH POL-
DEL/ HUNGDEL MODUS OPERANDI IN ICCS. EAST EUROPEAN OFFICERS AND
POS-
ITIONS THEY HAVE TAKEN HAVE BEEN "TOO POLITICAL" FOR INTERPRETER'S
LIKING. "I AM TIRED OF QUARTER- TRUTHS, HALF- TRUTHS, AND THREE-
QUARTER TRUTHS," HE SAID. INTERPRETER CONCLUDED THAT VIET- NAM
EXPERIENCE IS INTERESTING, BUT HE PLANS TO LEAVE WHEN ELIGIBLE AFTER
SIX MONTHS.

8. BAN ME THUOT TEAM WENT TO HOSPITAL MORNING OF APRIL 7
TO LOOK UP ADMISSION RECORDS ON THREE RF TROOPERS WOUNDED IN BUON
HO DISTRICT INCIDENT THAT HAS NOW BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR
SEVERAL DAYS. POLOFF COMMENTS THAT THIS INVESTIGATION MAY NEVER END
AND WOULD CERTAINLY WARM THE HEART OF ANY LAWYER.

9. GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES: DURING APRIL 6 TUYEN DUC/ DALAT
PACIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING, PC/ MAYOR COL. DOAN
ANNOUNCED
ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEES AT PROVINCE, CITY
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AND VILLAGE LEVELS AND EXPLAINED THEIR FUNCTION. COMMITTEES ENCOMPASS ENTIRE EXISTING GVN STRUCTURE. DOAN STRESSED THAT FROM NOW ON GVN OFFICIALS CANNOT BE JUST CIVIL SERVANTS; THEIR EVERY ACT MUST CARRY POLITICAL MEANING. AT PRESENT, HE SAID, GVN CAUSES ONLY ONE- TENTH AS MUCH " PAIN" TO THE PEOPLE AS THE VC, BUT MISSION OF OFFICIALS MUST BE TO REDUCE THAT MEASURE TO ZERO. DOAN ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO LAMBASTE INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION IN LOCAL SERVICES, INCLUDING PT& T, PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

10. KHANH HOA PROVINCE HAS SCHEDULED COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN 37 VILLAGES ON APRIL 29. OF PROVINCE' S OTHER 22 VILLAGES, 17 WILL HOLD NEW ELECTIONS ON UNSPECIFIED DATE BEFORE OCTOBER 1973 AND FIVE HAVE SERVING COUNCILS ELECTED IN MARCH 1972.
TEARE

UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/ T: SAIGON 5876 (RPT OF NHATRANG 371) AS RECEIVED.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730436/aaaahvhf.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971205
Subject: MR II DAILY SIT REP, APRIL 7
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS, MILI, PINT
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005